



University of North Carolina Wilmington

CONNECTIONS

The Magazine of the Watson School of Education

2010 Edition

**Celebrating
Connections**

A Message From The Dean

The Watson School of Education has a well-earned reputation for being innovative, responsive and totally engaged in collaborative efforts to improve education for all children. In 2010, we have much to celebrate! We have been delivering educational programs for our region and the university for 55 years, have been a School of Education for 30 years, offered our programs and classes at extension sites for 15 years and have been in our beautiful building five years. Our mission is to develop highly competent, reflective and empowered professionals. We are committed to providing academically rigorous programs that integrate high quality, personalized and innovative teaching with meaningful field experiences.

This issue of *Connections* is about just that ~ connections! You will find articles and information about the exciting and rewarding connections we have made around the world, with our community, across our campus, with educational agencies and with the business community. The impact of our collective and collaborative efforts has created an environment that consistently puts us at the forefront of education schools. Watson School of Education faculty members are intensely committed to their profession, to improving education and to developing quality educators. They are models of teaching, extremely productive in terms of research and scholarship, and committed to service in the region.

I hope you will find the efforts showcased in this issue to be informative and exciting! Please join us in supporting the future of the Watson School of Education by staying connected and helping us chart the future of education!



Karen S. Wetherill, Interim Dean

Front cover:

Faculty, staff, students and alumni of the Watson School of Education gathered in the atrium of the Education Building to celebrate the anniversary of the school on April 27, 2010. Using yarn, participants ceremoniously connected with one another, symbolizing the legacy of knowledge and service they continue passing on to future generations. UNCW/Jamie Moncrief



1977 School of Education faculty at UNC Wilmington. (Top left then clockwise) Andrew Hayes, Calvin Doss, Roy E. Harkin, James Applefield, Eleanor Wright, Betty Stike, Paz Bartolome and Hathia Hayes.



CONNECTIONS

The Magazine of the Watson School of Education
2010 Edition

[Features]

- 4 - CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY
- 8 - CONNECTED TO THE WORLD
- 12 - GOOD SHEPHERD
- 16 - BALANCING ACT

[Sections]

- 7 WSE Points of Pride
- 14 Campus Connections
- 20 Community Connections
- 22 Awards
- 24 Razor Walker Awards
- 26 Alumni News

Connections is published annually by the Watson School of Education at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. We invite your comments and suggestions.

Correspondence can be sent to:
UNCW Watson School of Education
Dean's Office
601 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403-5991
or to Karen Wetherill, interim dean
at wetherillk@uncw.edu.
Visit us online at www.uncw.edu/ed

Karen Wetherill
Interim Dean
Watson School of Education

Managing Editor
Brenda A. Riegel

Photo Editor
Jamie Moncrief

Graphic Designer
Krysti Wetherill

Contributors
William Davis '08M
Laura Ann Klinedinst '10
Sarah Onyshko '11
Andrea Weaver

Copy Editors
Marybeth K. Bianchi
William Davis '08M

UNCW is committed to and will provide equal educational and employment opportunity. Questions regarding access may be directed to the Compliance Office, UNCW Chancellor's Office, 910.962.3000, Fax 910.962.3483. 000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$0,000.00 or \$0.00 per copy (G.S. 143-170.1). PS 108562-10



The anniversary event on April 27, 2010, ceremonially recognized the connections between past and future generations. (Opposite, left – right) Former faculty Andrew and Hatha Hayes, Betty Stike and Eleanor Wright, and former deans Cathy Barlow and Robert Tyndall.

Celebrating our Legacy

Let's do the math. Five years in the Education Building, plus 30 years as a school of education, with a sum total of 55 years of delivering top-notch education courses at UNCW.

Of course the numbers are important, not so much in and of themselves, but for what they represent: thousands of students who have been educated and made their mark as educators over the last 55 years.





If you consider the number of lives each faculty and staff member has influenced and each graduate has touched, you realize WSE's impact on the schoolchildren of our region, state and world has been exponentially greater than any of these numbers can quantify.

WSE celebrated these milestones with a public open house April 26. An afternoon of tours and refreshments was capped off with a unique ceremony that demonstrated the connections between the generations of educators present. Using yarn, participants connected with one another, symbolizing the legacy of knowledge and service they continue passing on to future generations.

As Karen Wetherill, interim dean of the school, made introductions and coordinated the action, retired faculty members Eleanor Wright, Hathaia and Andrew Hayes, Calvin Doss and Betty Stike, along with former WSE deans Cathy Barlow and Robert Tyndall, dropped balls of colorful yarn from the second to the first floor of the atrium. The yarn then was passed to faculty and staff who joined the school from each of its decades until it reached current Teaching Fellows students who were preparing to graduate and begin their careers as educators.

As the vibrant strands were passed hand-to-hand, five decades of educators were literally and figuratively connected.

"It was a nice visual way to say that we are all connected," said Wright. "The university does a good job of keeping all of us faculty emeritus involved. I volunteer with the art collection, keep the history timeline for the Legacy Hall kiosk and participate in the alumni association. I'm still connected and proudly wear my nametag."

Betty Stike, for whom the education lab is named, said, "This event is so exciting. It's been a great afternoon reconnecting with friends and colleagues."

After Wetherill praised the leadership and contributions of all those present, she said, "Our challenge is not only to stand on the shoulders of those who created the Watson School of Education, but to pass on their legacy to the next generation of teachers and leaders."



(Left) Participants were grouped by decades and connected by strands of colored yarn.

(Right) UNCW a cappella group, the High Seas, performed at the celebration event.



WATSON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION POINTS OF PRIDE

The Watson School's grant efforts focus on obtaining funding for collaborative initiatives that address P-16 needs of the schools in the southeastern region. Funded grants totaled more than \$990,000 during the 2009-10 academic year.

The Watson School is a host site for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows and Principal Fellows programs. WSE hosted 145 high school Teacher Cadets from eight counties for a regional conference Feb. 26-27, 2010.

The Watson School's national award-winning Professional Development System (PDS) serves 12 school districts and one charter school, providing professional development opportunities for 117 schools and more than 1,400 P-12 teachers. Partnership schools include the Cape Fear Center for Inquiry; Whiteville City, Clinton City and Camp Lejeune schools; Roger Bacon Academy; and the Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Duplin, Jones, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender and Sampson county school systems.

The 17th annual Razor Walker Awards honored four North Carolinians and two agencies for their efforts to improve the quality of life for children and youth in the state. Nominations are being accepted for next year's recipients.

During the 2009-10 academic year, Watson School faculty published 76 book chapters or journal articles and 15 books or monographs, edited 79 books, developed five digital programs or applications, began marketing an educational game and made 185 presentations at international, national, regional and state conferences.

The Watson School of Education is the national host site for CREATE (the Consortium for Research on Educational Accountability and Teacher Evaluation). CREATE moved to UNCW from Western Michigan University this past year. The nationally recognized organization hosts the annual National Evaluation Institute, which is attended by hundreds of educators from across the nation.

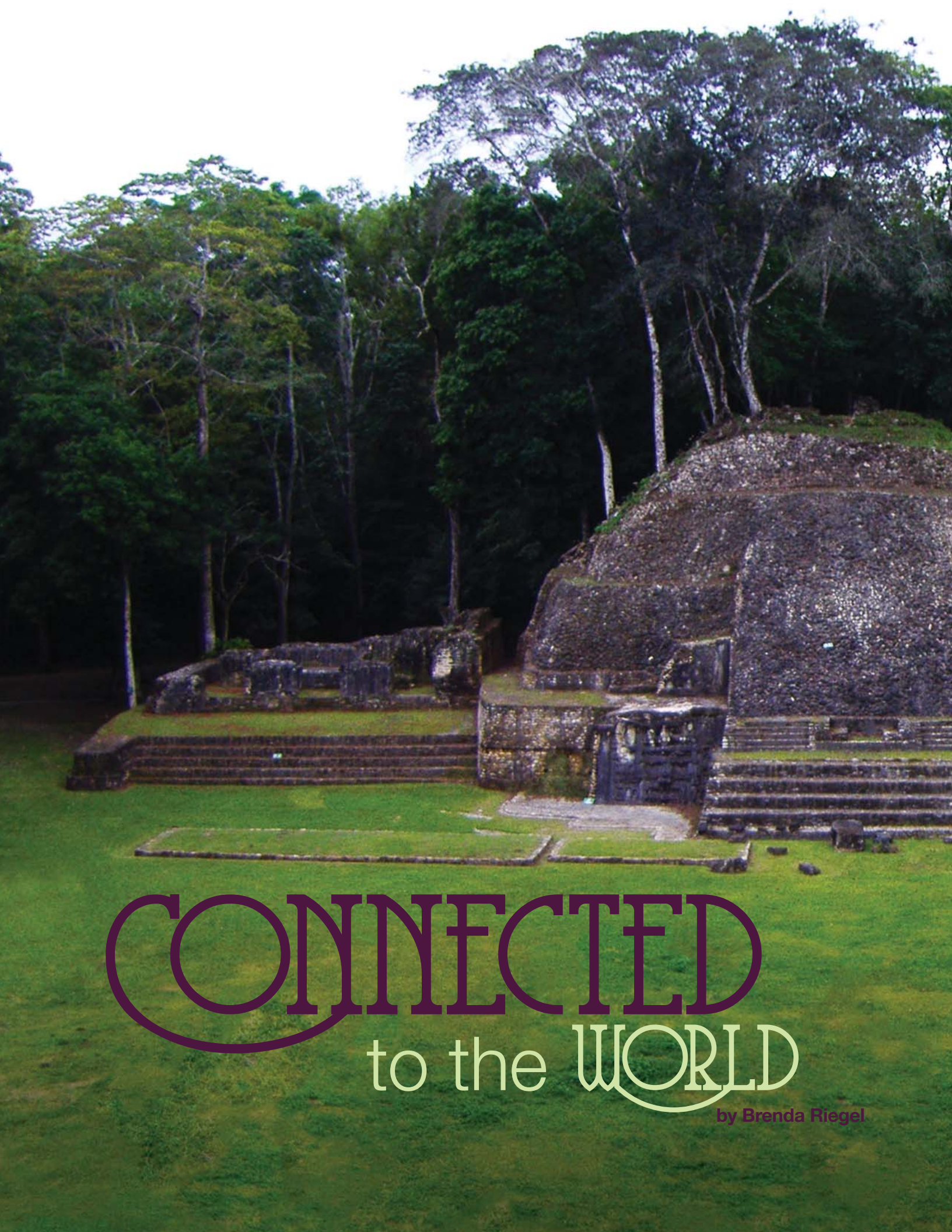
The Watson School has been rated "exemplary" by the State Board of Education. Only seven out of 47 North Carolina teacher education programs received this honor.

The passing rate for Watson School graduates on the Praxis II Specialty Area Tests required for licensure is 98 percent.

The Watson School is the fourth largest producer of teachers at the undergraduate level in the state of North Carolina.

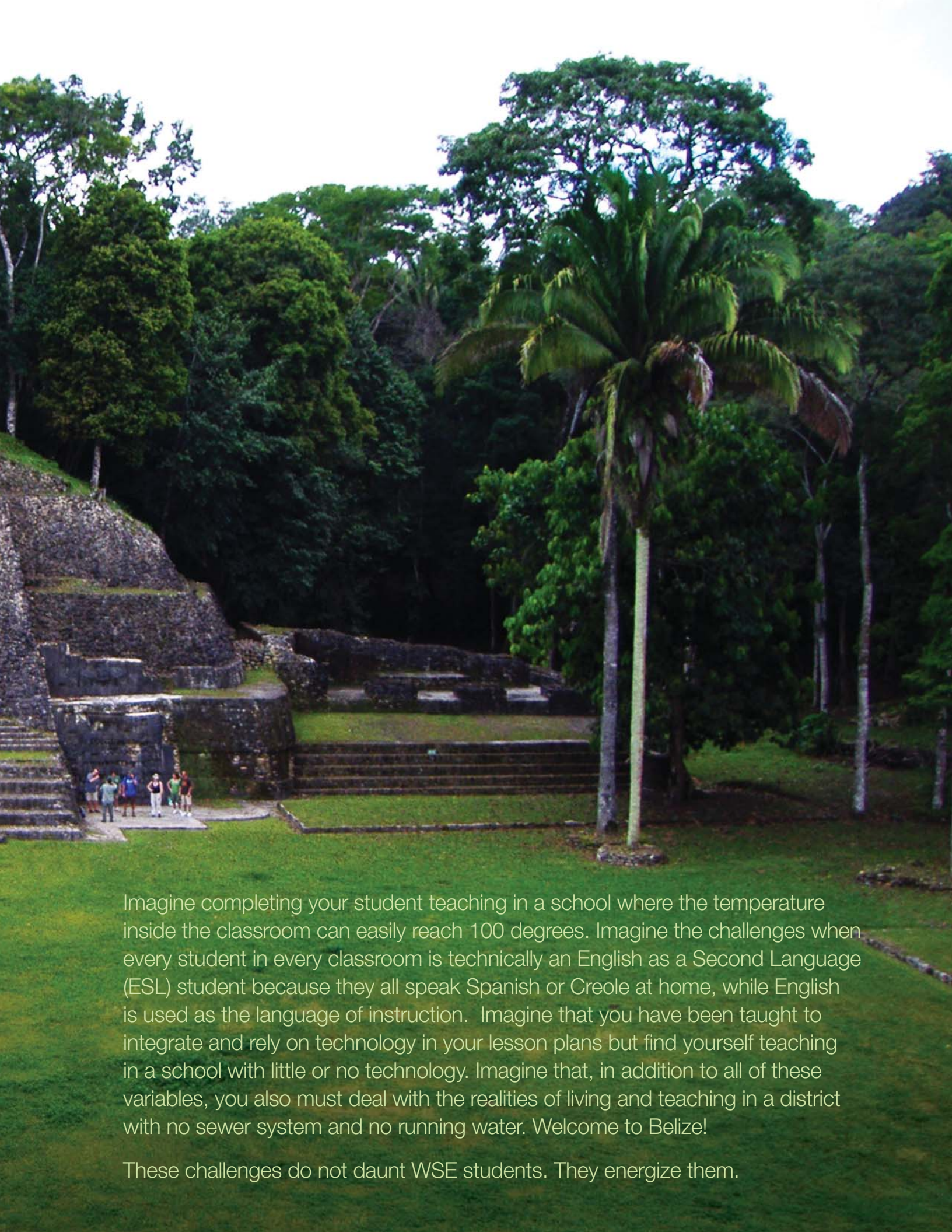
Forty-two educator preparation and licensure programs are offered by the Watson School at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The Education Building at UNCW is not only beautiful and unique, it also is known for high-quality, technology-enhanced learning spaces. These include a Media Production Lab, distance learning classroom that connects UNCW with others around the world, "behind the glass observation and teaching" classroom, assistive technology classroom with state-of-the-art technologies for teaching students with disabilities and an early childhood education classroom with distance learning capabilities to connect with similar classrooms at two community college sites. The Education Building is truly a research, development and demonstration site for teaching and learning technologies.



CONNECTED to the WORLD

by Brenda Riegel



Imagine completing your student teaching in a school where the temperature inside the classroom can easily reach 100 degrees. Imagine the challenges when every student in every classroom is technically an English as a Second Language (ESL) student because they all speak Spanish or Creole at home, while English is used as the language of instruction. Imagine that you have been taught to integrate and rely on technology in your lesson plans but find yourself teaching in a school with little or no technology. Imagine that, in addition to all of these variables, you also must deal with the realities of living and teaching in a district with no sewer system and no running water. Welcome to Belize!

These challenges do not daunt WSE students. They energize them.



San Pedro, Belize



San Pedro, Belize



Costa Rica

In the schools of San Pedro, Belize, "our students have the opportunity to return to the basic tenets of teaching. With no materials and very little technology, they are challenged to be creative in ways we really cannot challenge them here at home because we do have access to resources. Our students rise to the occasion and quickly become leaders in the schools," said associate professor of secondary education Dennis Kubasko, who coordinates the Watson School's Belize student teaching program with Susan Catapano, educational leadership associate professor.

Instead of a traditional 15-week internship in a single Southeastern North Carolina school, the students selected for this program spend 10 weeks in a local school and complete the remaining five weeks in Belize. A partnership with the Honorary Consulate of Belize in North Carolina and the fact that Wilmington, N.C. and San Pedro, Belize, are sister cities helped fuel the decision to create an international field experience in this tropical country.

While Wilmington and San Pedro share some key characteristics in terms of coastal locations, access to natural resources and tourist destinations, there are many differences.

In Belize, a third of teachers have only a high school diploma. Another third have an associate's degree – usually not in education, and a third hold a bachelor's degree – sometimes in education, sometimes not.

Major differences in instructional styles exist, according to Kubasko. Belizean schools focus more on "write and copy" methods while WSE student teachers utilize more hands-on, child-centered methods. In Belize, kindergarten is not part of traditional schooling, and there is little parental involvement in education. In addition, reading for pleasure is not valued in Belizean society. There is little access to books or money for books.

Belizean schools need basic materials and supplies, classroom libraries and professional development in areas of teaching reading, supporting children with special needs and integrating curriculum.

Seniors in the Watson School of Education who complete their student teaching internship in Belize not only teach children, they also provide professional development for the teachers. Sometimes they even assume full responsibility for classes. The idea of reciprocity, making sure the Belizeans benefit as much as our students do, is important to the program.

"Our students are so highly trained compared to the teacher preparation available in Belize," said Kubasko.

"When you add 17 student teachers to a 60-teacher island, you are adding considerable assets to the workforce. The teachers already in place receive 40 days of professional development, and we have an opportunity to enhance their educational culture while we change our own," he continued.

In keeping with N.C. Public School's commitment to educating 21st century learners with a global perspective, this international field experience is an opportunity for cross-cultural learning.

Teaching intern Anna Smith '10 created connections between students at Forest Hills Elementary in Wilmington and an elementary school in San Pedro by facilitating a blog for the students.

Katy Locke '10 and Keri Holman '10 also fostered cross-cultural communications between the students at home and in Belize. New Hanover and Hoggard High School students wrote letters and postcards to students in Belize who then wrote letters back. The Hoggard students are continuing their conversations via a Facebook page.

"If you can adjust a student's world view in 40 days, what more can you ask of a program?" said Kubasko.

Locke summed up the strength of this international experience. "Here I felt like an intern. There I was a teacher."

More Global Connections

In addition to the Belize field experience, WSE offers international learning opportunities in

- Japan
- South Africa
- Costa Rica
- England
- Kuwait



Japan



South Africa



Kuwait

Creating Opportunities

Ann Potts, assistant professor in the department of elementary, middle and literacy education, developed a student internship program in Kuwait that began this fall. Students, who spent six to eight weeks in Kuwait, were greeted by a friendly and familiar face, Kira Malatchi '10.

Malatchi earned her elementary licensure from WSE last spring. Potts assisted her in obtaining a one-year contract position teaching second graders at the American Creativity Academy in Kuwait. The academy's mission is to deliver standards-based American curriculum to prepare students for university success. The teaching interns visited this school during their time in Kuwait.

Malatchi had not planned to teach in Kuwait. "I never honestly thought of teaching in this part of the world until this exciting adventure landed in my lap," she said.

The opportunity, which came about because of Potts' mentorship, is a welcome one given the current economic situation. Malatchi's salary is tax-free, and her travel and housing expenses are paid for by the Kuwaiti government.

Malatchi is enthusiastic about teaching at the academy and expanding her knowledge of the culture and people of Kuwait. "All I get from this part of the world is what's on the news. This is a great opportunity to meet individuals in person and see what they are really like."



Connecting with our Community, One Child at a Time

By Sarah Onyshko '11

Did you know “that during the 2009-10 school year there were 392 homeless students enrolled in New Hanover County Schools? My experience [with them] enriched my knowledge in education,” said UNCW student Shelby Salley '11.

Enriching the experiences of those children and UNCW education students are the goals of the connection forged between the Watson School of Education and the Good Shepherd Center. The center offers help to homeless individuals and families as they transition to independence in the community.

Watson School of Education students watch smiles break out on the faces of children and parents alike at the Good Shepherd Center when they walk in the door. UNCW graduate student Tanya Westenburg '10, '12M reflected, "They were so excited that I was there to help them with homework, to read a book or just chat about everyday things."

For the past three years, associate professor of elementary, middle level and literacy education Kathleen Schlichting has required her undergraduate and graduate students to volunteer for 10 hours each semester at the center. They help children with their homework, reading and math skills after school and organize games, crafts and read-a-loud sessions before bed. They also arrange literacy festivals and holiday activities on weekends.

In between organizing activities for the children, students volunteer at fundraisers, for mailing campaigns and in the soup kitchen. Outside of the required 10 volunteer hours, they also helped remodel the family room. They painted an ocean theme, brought new furniture, games and books, and organized a new study area. They plan to remodel the sleeping quarters next.

As student response and involvement grows, other members of the Watson faculty are expressing interest, and Ann Potts, assistant professor of elementary, middle level and literacy education, had her classes join the project.

"We are changing the students' misconceptions of homeless people. Students learn the homeless population as a whole is made of normal, everyday people who have fallen on hard times," Schlichting explains. "We are trying to create socially conscious and responsive people who will become educators that can understand and focus on the special needs of the homeless children they may encounter."

The students seem to be getting the lesson loud and clear. "One of the homeless Latino students would bring home official letters from the school that had not been translated for his parent. How can parents participate and support [their children] if they are unaware of programs or problems? As an educator I will advocate for more awareness and more solutions to the challenges students face," said Salley.

Just down the road from Good Shepherd Center is the Hillcrest community. Associate professor of sociology John Rice joins with Martin Kozloff, distinguished Watson professor, in a partnership to get sociology and education and students involved in the Reading Program in Hillcrest.

Continually concerned by the scope of the achievement gap, Rice and Kozloff, along with former graduate student Eric Irizarry '02, '09M, had little trouble deciding what kind of program to begin when approached by the Hillcrest community in 2008 about creating an education component. Focusing on scripted reading instruction for pre-K through third grade for at-risk kids, they began to spread the word to their undergraduate classes.

The student response was more enthusiastic than expected. They started with about 25 tutors. As the program grows, tutors continue to return for multiple semesters and years with the program.

But the community response was less enthusiastic at first. Rice, Irizarry and Kozloff hoped for 10 children to begin the pilot program. Even with going door-to-door to register children in the largely African American community, only two arrived the first day. This was most likely due to historically tense race relations and the community's skepticism about the dedication of UNCW students and faculty, they thought.

Kozloff remembered, "I could only think, 'It's over.'" But the children slowly trickled in, lured by snacks of giant pickles and spurred on by their guardians. Now there are about 20 children coming, as young as 4 years old, and all vastly improving their reading skills. Children consistently attending tutoring sessions for a year improved their oral reading fluency by more than 54 words per minute.

"We aren't just helping kids read at grade level or creating kids that can read, but kids who really love to read," Rice stated. And it must be true as children who have "graduated" from the Hillcrest Program return and inspire administrators and tutors to find and create more advanced books and lessons to carry on their instruction. Westenberg, on-site program coordinator, recalled the habits of one of her tutees, "She comes into the program with books that she has checked out from the school library, and wants to read them with me. She even picks out books that are past her grade level because she is so determined to read and comprehend."


UNCW student and Hillcrest tutor Samuel Brick '11 echoed Rice. "When you see how excited these kids are when you show up and how excited they are to show you how they can read, you really learn that these kids still believe they can achieve anything. The ramifications of their living conditions have not altered their thinking yet. We, as a society, can still have an impact."

For the Hillcrest program, mission creep has begun. As older children continue to arrive for tutoring and new tutees enroll, Rice and Kozloff look to expand the program into one of the neighborhood churches where the student-involved campus can become a model for a new campus run by local parents.

If you ask Rice and Kozloff why the program is so successful, they will tell you that while the data speaks for itself, it does not reveal the whole story. The Hillcrest volunteers are truly connecting with each child. "The tutor-tutee relationship becomes the conduit through which literacy skills can pass," Rice explained.

Kozloff added, "We are communicating we care for them when frequently there is no father, their mother is hassled and they compete for the teacher's attention in school. This is one-on-one."

The children are not the only beneficiaries of the program; Brick feels it is just as enlightening for the tutors. "It has cemented the fact that I want to be a teacher and that I will be teaching in low-income areas. Even if the victories are few and far between, the victories you do achieve show you truly have made a difference."



Reading Between the Lines Making Campus Connections Count for Children

What do bats, nutrition and ocean life have in common? They are just a few of the topics schoolchildren have been exploring over the last year during Literacy Live! events.

Literacy Live! is an outreach effort that connects students, faculty and administrators in the Watson School of Education, Randall Library and the Division of Public Service and Continuing Studies youth programs with children in the local community. Programs are aimed at children ages 4-7 and have two primary goals:

- improving literacy and reading comprehension through dramatic play
- increasing awareness of the need for environmental stewardship with books about science and the environment

Events, which take place in Randall Library and the Education Building, allow WSE students opportunities for community service as they volunteer by reading books aloud to groups of children and assisting with hands-on literacy and science activities. Many of the student volunteers are pre-service teachers enrolled in "Integrating Arts in Elementary Education" classes taught by Brenda Wheat, associate professor in the department of elementary, middle and literacy education.

To encourage use of this type of interactive curriculum, the university offered a professional development workshop in August for in-service teachers interested in developing a Literacy Live! program kit and using existing Literacy Live! resources in their classrooms. The workshop was led by Sue Kezios in public service and continuing studies and Kathryn Batten and Rachel Radom from Randall Library.

This collaboration is just one of many cross-campus connections that WSE develops to best serve the needs of students, the community and area educators and schoolchildren. Other cross-campus partners include:

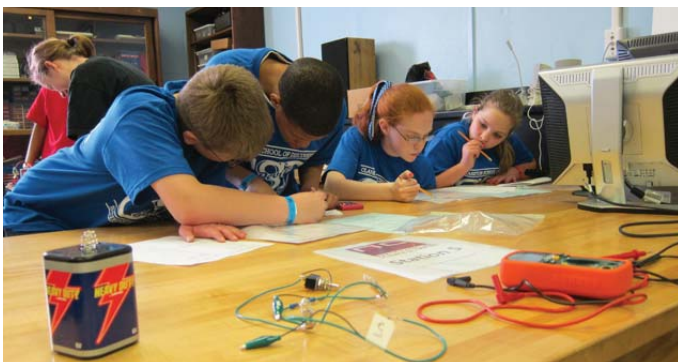
- UNCW Diversity Council
- Centro Hispano
- Upperman African American Cultural Center
- African American Research Development with the Department of Social Work
- Center for Teaching Excellence

The Watson School of Education is committed to building partnerships in the community to not only provide educational enrichment but to utilize people and resources to reach out to help and serve. After all, it's what people in community do.

Each year, UNCW hosts the **Science Olympiad** for southeastern North Carolina. Nearly 1,000 high school and middle school students from Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties gathered at UNCW March 14, 2010, to compete in 46 real-world science and engineering events designed by UNCW faculty and students and community volunteers.

The **Betty Stike Educational Laboratory** provides a resource for the community and a means for the university's teachers-in-training to gain hands-on experience working with K-6 students. Area students are tutored one-on-one in reading, writing and math.

In the summer months, the Watson School offers parents of students ages 11-14 from under-represented communities a chance to enroll in the **Junior Seahawk Summer Academy**. The academy is a one-week day camp aimed at giving students a hands-on exploration of science, math and technology.



WSE's **Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics** is a four-week summer program for rising North Carolina juniors and seniors blending residential college life with intensive science and math study. It is one of six University of North Carolina Mathematics and Science Education Network programs providing cost-free research experiences for academically talented students who may pursue careers rooted in science, technology, engineering and math.

UNCW **Student Council for Exceptional Children** hosts an annual spring dance for young adults with disabilities. This year, about 160 middle-school and high-school age students and their teachers, teacher assistants and therapists attended the dance, which the enthusiastic students have begun calling their "prom." Last year, the council expanded its outreach beyond New Hanover County, and now students from Pender County attend the popular event.

The WSE has partnered with **Smart Start of New Hanover County** to host the annual Breakfast for Children's Champions, which honors people and organizations who have gone above and beyond to serve young children and families in New Hanover County.

(Left) Students participate in the N.C. Science Olympiad. (Right) Summer Ventures students engage in hands-on research.



STAR Connections

by Laura Ann Klinedinst '10

Exponentials, square roots and derivatives may all seem pointless when you're in a high school calculus class struggling to keep your eyes open. Yet algebra, geometry, statistics and even calculus have applications that span far beyond the classroom. Long ago, Nicole Farland, a senior in the Watson School of Education, realized just how essential these math disciplines are to daily life and has been on track to receive her teaching certification in mathematics ever since.

"Education can *always* help, even though it may not be someone's priority," said Farland who is making it her priority to help students make the connection between the importance of education, especially mathematics, and its application to daily life.

However, Farland has been challenged to complete her undergraduate degree because of financial difficulties. As a type 1 diabetic, Farland was afraid that after her father's military medical benefits expired she would not be able to afford the cost of her medical bills, let alone tuition.

Thanks to the Scholarship Team in Action to Recruit (STAR) program, Farland's worries went out the window. When Nanci Boldizar, Fast Track advisor for Watson School, connected her to the STAR scholarship, Farland could not help but pursue the opportunity.

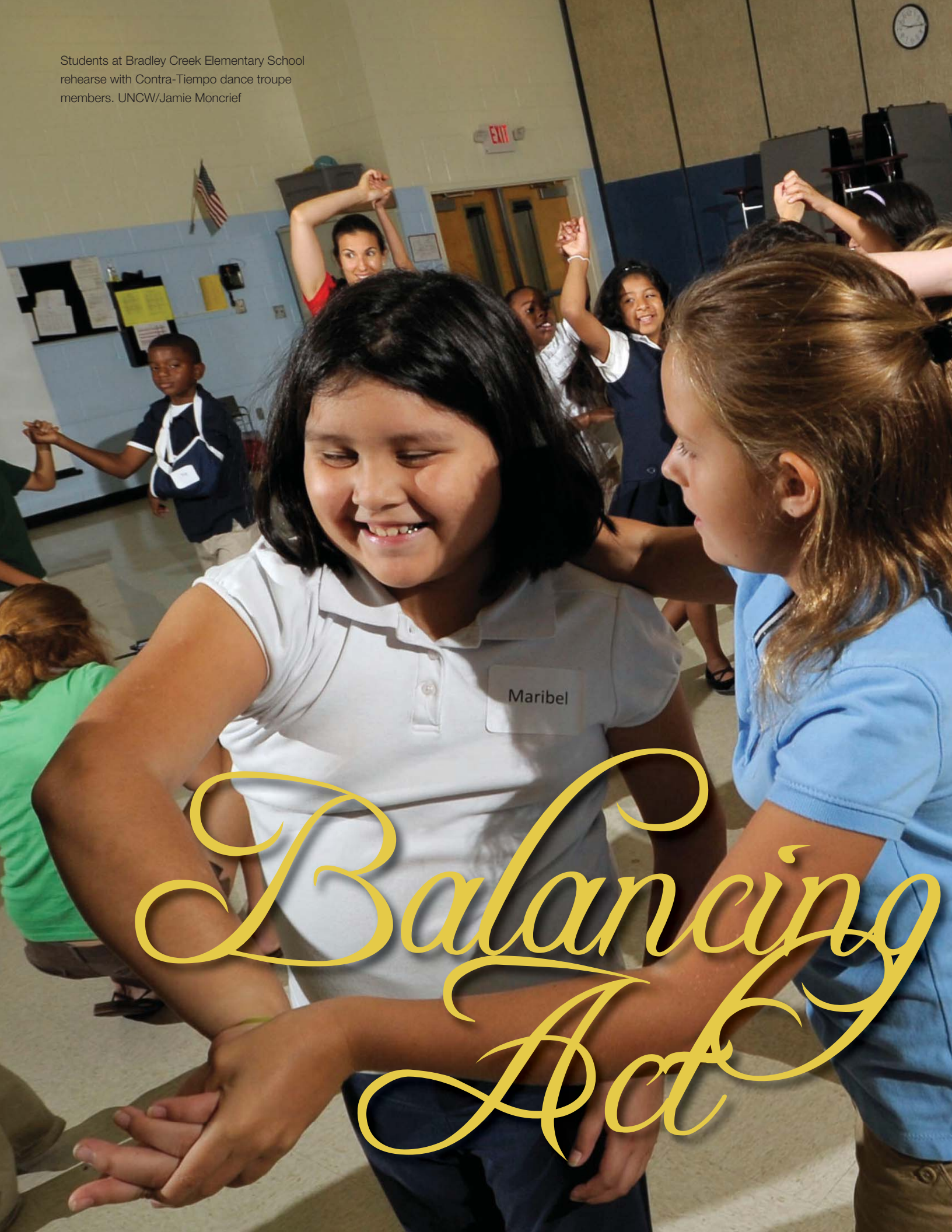
STAR is a five-year grant initiative funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Robert Noyce Teaching Scholarship. The program is designed to provide financial scholarships to prospective mathematics and science teachers who will receive their teaching certification in North Carolina and plan to teach in high-needs schools within partnering N.C. school districts.

"If it weren't for the STAR program, I may have been forced to drop out and work full-time just to be able to afford my medical expenses," said Farland.

The STAR program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as those looking to change their career and pursue a teaching certificate. Each applicant selected for the STAR program will receive up to \$10,000 in scholarship money for a two-year teaching commitment for each year she or he receives the scholarship or stipend.

There are nine members of UNCW's first cohort of STAR scholarship recipients, including Farland. The second cohort includes three undergraduates majoring in STEM (science, technology, engineering or math) programs and nine adults who are changing to teaching careers.

Students at Bradley Creek Elementary School
rehearse with Contra-Tiempo dance troupe
members. UNCW/Jamie Moncrief



Balancing Act



Local and National Partnerships Benefit Students and Teachers

by William Davis '08M

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is one of the world's premiere artistic venues, and thanks to a partnership between the center, the University of North Carolina Wilmington and the New Hanover County Schools, professional artists are sharing their art with the region's schoolchildren.

The Kennedy Center's Alliance for Arts Education Network is giving UNCW and the schools access to its roster of teaching artists, who are professionally trained as arts educators. The performers provide hands-on classes for students, as well as professional development workshops for K-12 teachers. The partnership consists of an initial commitment of three years, with the option to renew if the effort is deemed successful.

"It's a very competitive process. We had no idea going in that we'd be one of the institutions selected," said Norman Bemelmans, director of the Office of Cultural Arts, which spearheaded the partnership with the Watson School of Education.

This fall, artists from the Contra-Tiempo urban dance company spent two weeks in residency at Bradley Creek Elementary, performing and teaching students and teachers about their craft. Along with their work in residency, Contra-Tiempo held workshops for teachers and gave two performances at Kenan Auditorium for public school students. The artists also delivered two performances alongside students at Bradley Creek, which allowed the school to present the arts to students without having to dip into slim travel funds.

"Finding the buses is a big deal for our schools," said Brenda Wheat, assistant professor of elementary, middle level and literacy education and coordinator of the program for the Watson School.

"In a time and day when budgets are a dicey proposition," the goal is to keep the cost of participating in the plan as low as possible, according to Bemelmans. While the university does require a nominal financial commitment from the partner schools, the Office of Cultural Arts and Watson will use grant money to help pay for artists. With the higher profile artists available through the Kennedy Center, the university can also offset expenses by using proceeds from performances on campus to subsidize the costs.

"If we can tie into a main stage performance, that's great," said Courtney Reilly, assistant director of the Office of Cultural Arts.

In addition to working directly with students and teachers at Bradley Creek Elementary School, the Contra-Tiempo ensemble also offered activities at UNCW, including student workshops, dance master classes, departmental lectures and lifelong learning presentations.

The relationship with the Kennedy Center will enhance UNCW's existing partnerships with the region's schools the Technical Assistance Program for Public Schools (TAPPS), which provides on-site consultation, training, resources and creative and technical assistance for drama teachers and students and ARTworks, also developed as a partnership between the Office of Cultural Arts and the Watson School. Through ARTworks, schools receive free performances, guides on how to integrate arts into the curriculum, professional development workshops for teachers and in-school residencies. During the 2009-10 academic year, members of the

Degas Quartet taught fourth and fifth graders at College Park Elementary School how to build their own string instruments out of Styrofoam and fishing line, then led them in a concert for their classmates.

These existing efforts proved crucial in winning the support of the Kennedy Center, said Wheat. With the ability to draw from the Kennedy Center's roster of high profile artists, UNCW will be able to bring in performers whose marquee value will draw large audiences to performances at the university, benefiting the schools, the campus and the community. That would not have been possible without the existing foundation built by ARTworks and TAPPS.

"Basically, it's recognition of what we have been doing for the last five years," said Wheat.

One thing that set the UNCW arts partnerships apart is that the Watson School emphasizes ways to integrate the arts into the existing North Carolina educational curriculum. Wheat, who specializes in arts education, said she developed the program to help "classroom teachers understand how the arts connect to the curriculum."

The university provides workshops, in-school visits and other professional development opportunities for teachers at K-12 institutions taught by staff and faculty members. Students from the Watson School studying arts education visit public school classrooms to work directly with students and teachers.

"It's an opportunity for students, faculty and staff in a number of areas to have real professional involvement with teachers and students in their areas of expertise," said Bemelmans.

One of the features of the Kennedy Center partnership that appealed to the educational aims of the university is that the artists are not only world-class performers, but have training and years of experience as arts educators.

Wheat said the program aims to achieve three educational goals. The first is to enhance arts appreciation among students with performances, the second is to assist classroom teachers in integrating the arts into their day-to-day teaching, and the third is to help public school arts teachers to improve their teaching and artistic techniques.

The UNCW and New Hanover County Schools partnership with the Kennedy Center is one of only two in North Carolina. In 1993, the center entered into an agreement to provide artist to the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County and the Wake County Public Schools.

The Watson School's arts outreach efforts began modestly with Mozart Week for elementary students, holding performances in the lobby of the School of Education building. Every year since, it has gotten "more and more organized," said Wheat.

WSE partners with many other educational agencies in the region and nation, including:

- Professional Development System University School Partnership
- AIG Consortium with school systems
- Community College Extension Programs
- Transition Program with New Hanover County Schools
- Southeastern Educational Alliance
- Private and Parochial Schools
- Hill Center
- Department of Defense Educational Efforts (Camp Lejeune, Camp Johnson)
- Smart Start and More-at-Four Programs



(Top) Contra-Tiempo troupe members.
Photo by Brandt Brogan

(Bottom) Brenda Wheat, WSE assistant professor; Courtney Reilly, Office of Cultural Arts assistant director; and Georgeann Haas, New Hanover County Schools arts education supervisor, partner in bringing arts to local students. UNCW/Jamie Moncrief

(Right) Contra-Tiempo's Ana Maria Alvarez.
Photo by Tyrone Domingo





(Top) David Geddie, a fiber technician with Time Warner Cable, demonstrated the delicate work of slicing fiber optic cables together at the Junior Seahawk Academy, part of the Connect One Million Minds initiative.

(Bottom left) Harris Teeter's Charles Jent (left) and Oscar Alatorre (right) presented former dean Cathy Barlow with a 40-inch television that is used in the Betty Stike Ed Lab.

(Bottom right) WSE interim dean Karen Wetherill received a check for \$5,000 from Time Warner Cable representatives.

Networking to Increase the Net Worth of Student Experiences

Paying attention to the bottom line is an absolute necessity. So is giving university and K-12 students in the region a top quality education. WSE has found ways to do both by making connections with business leaders in North Carolina.

School Improvement Network

National business involvement in the School Improvement Network brings professional development resources to WSE faculty and district and charter school partners. PD 360° provides educators with instant access to more than 300 video training segments – totaling more than 200 hours of high-quality, research-based professional education.

When WSE faculty members use these resources for their courses, they are bringing nationally recognized experts into their classrooms. PD 360° is ideal for teachers of all experience levels, as well as principals, administrators, paraprofessionals and coaches because it provides training that meets the individual needs of educators.

Time Warner Donates \$5,000 to Science Olympiad

Nearly 1,000 high school and middle school students from Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties gathered at UNCW March 14, 2010, to compete in 46 real-world science and engineering events designed by UNCW faculty and students and community volunteers. The Science Olympiad benefits parochial, private and public school students in the region.

“Students participate in events that are meant to challenge their ability to solve problems and come up with answers to science-related challenges,” WSE associate professor and Science Olympiad regional co-director Dennis Kubasko explained. “It is awesome to see the young generation excited about learning, science and being involved in team work.”

The Wilmington Regional Science Olympiad competition received a generous \$5,000 donation from Time Warner Cable in January at an event hosted in the Education Building. While the Watson School of Education has successfully provided financial, intellectual and physical resources for the Olympiad for the past five years, this financial commitment will sustain the region's only large-scale science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiative of its kind for many years to come.

AT&T Sponsors Razor Walker Awards Again

For the 18th consecutive year, AT&T has been the major corporate sponsor for the Watson School's annual Razor Walker Awards presentation. Read about the winners on pages 24-25. The awards recognize individuals, agencies and companies who, through their vision, tenacity and courage, improve the lives of young people.

Harris Teeter Donates TV to Ed Lab

Harris Teeter donated a 40-inch, plasma screen television to the Betty Stike Educational Laboratory. The lab provides UNCW education students with opportunities to tutor elementary and middle schoolchildren, one-on-one, in reading, writing and mathematics. Students practice the methods they are learning in courses. Schoolchildren receive personalized instruction that focuses on their strengths, needs and interests. The TV will be a useful tool for the tutors and children, Ed Lab director Brian Brinkley said.

Corporate Foundations

WSE makes connections between the interests and goals of corporate foundations and UNCW and community initiatives to improve education in the region. For example, with grants from the Robertson Foundation and the Hill Center Inc., more than \$575,000 was invested in The Hill School of Wilmington, a half-day academic program for students in grades 2-7 with learning disabilities and/or attention deficit disorder.

Connect a Million Minds Initiative Connects Time Warner Cable, Junior Seahawk Academy

Sixty middle school students attended the 2010 Junior Seahawk Academy. This year's camp let students work with fiber optic cable and use a fusion splicer. Fiber splicing is a critical skill in the cable industry, and one example of the myriad options for technology careers discussed during the week-long camp.

Time Warner provided a cash grant through the Connect a Million Minds (CMM) philanthropic initiative to support the Junior Seahawk Academy. The CMM effort encourages students to seek education and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. The academy is a summer experience designed to help underrepresented students develop an interest in STEM careers while enjoying fun and creative hands-on activities.

If your business would like to enrich the lives and educations of future teachers or students, please contact Karen Wetherill at 910.962.3354 or give2ed@uncw.edu.



Kate Tayloe Recognized by WSE Faculty and Alumni

Making connections is one of the traits that distinguishes award-winning educator Kate Tayloe '01, '07M.

In the classroom, she connects with her students. Her academically and intellectually gifted (AIG) students at Myrtle Grove Middle School eagerly anticipated the "Most Likely To..." awards she gave at the end of eighth grade. For three years, they wondered what quality or incident Tayloe would use to create each of their unique awards.

She also encourages her students to make intellectual connections, pushing them to think beyond the easy or typical answer and find creative solutions. Seventh graders in the AIG program completed a project that required them to identify a problem in society, research or create a solution and actively participate in that solution.

As an alumna of the WSE, she stays connected with the university and aspiring educators through the Professional Development System (PDS) university-school partnership and Teaching Fellows programs.

"As an undergraduate in the Watson School of Education, I gained a strong foundation that was supported by relationships and mentoring from professors and colleagues. Those relationships have not only remained intact, but have grown to serve as a support system for me as a professional. I value and appreciate the quality teaching preparation I received in both my undergraduate and graduate programs within the Watson School of Education, and have a desire to reciprocate through my work with prospective teachers both as a lecturer and a PDS site coordinator," said Tayloe.

In recognition for her teaching excellence and service, this spring Tayloe, former AIG teacher at Myrtle Grove Middle School and current director of the Wilmington Academy of Arts and Sciences, received the Roy E. Harkin Teacher Recognition Award and the WSE Distinguished Alumna of the Year Award.

The Teacher Recognition Award was established in 2008 in memory of Roy E. Harkin, first dean of the Watson School of Education. The award recognizes a public school teacher who has contributed to the preparation of future teachers by demonstrating excellence as a partnership teacher and/or site coordinator.

The WSE Alumni Chapter recognizes alumni who have made significant contributions to education and who represent the commitment to excellence that is a hallmark of the school.

In her role as a PDS partnership teacher/site coordinator, Tayloe "nurtured teacher interns and provided them professional development to ensure that they both see and understand 21st century best practices," said Myrtle Grove Middle School principal Robin Meiers.

Tayloe's "instructional leadership and reading staff development have helped move us forward to examine not only strategies to help struggling learners, but also methods that maximize learning for academically gifted students," said Meiers. "Kate works tirelessly with the Teaching Fellows program as she is not only a product of this program, but also one of its greatest supporters. We are very proud of Kate's contributions both to our school and to UNCW."



Interim dean Karen Wetherill presented the Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award to Dennis Kubasko at the spring 2010 commencement ceremony for the Watson School of Education, while faculty members and fellow award winners Sherri Harrelson and Kate Tayloe (back right and far right) look on. Photo by Kristine Wetherill

Dennis Kubasko Named Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award Winner

Each year, the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching is given to a Watson School of Education faculty member who has demonstrated strong skills in instruction and in working with students. The winner must have been recognized by students as a faculty member who has contributed to their knowledge base as learners and future educators. Dennis Kubasko received the 2010 award at the WSE commencement ceremonies.

Kubasko is an associate professor in the department of instructional technology, foundations, and secondary education, specializing in secondary science education. One of the many positive student comments that led to Kubasko's selection as the Teaching Excellence Award winner is this one: "Dr. Kubasko's enthusiastic and effective teaching style is the model I believe makes the most difference. My approach to my work and students will be similar to his when I reach that mountain top."

In addition to preparing and inspiring his students, Kubasko also makes connections in the community. He is co-director of the Wilmington Regional Science Olympiad (see related story on page 21). He is active in interdisciplinary projects within the Watson School of Education and is the program coordinator for the Belize student internship program.

"Dr. Kubasko is an outstanding teacher who understands that there is more to teaching than just having knowledge of the content. He strives to help his students become teachers who not only know the content, but also know how to teach the content in a manner that will engage secondary students who may be resistant to or lack self-confidence with science-related content," said Vance Durrington, instructional technology, foundations and secondary education department chair.

Sherri Harrelson Receives the Promise of Excellence in Teaching Award

Every spring at commencement ceremonies around the country, graduates are honored with awards they have earned through their past achievements. The WSE Promise of Excellence in Teaching Award does look at past achievement, but through the lens of the future. It rewards a student whose internship experience shows he or she has the potential, passion and skills to be a great teacher.

This year, Sherri Harrelson '10 received the Promise of Excellence in Teaching Award. She received a book and plaque at graduation.

Harrelson's internship placement was in a grades 1-2 multi-age classroom, an assignment that would challenge a teacher at any level of experience. According to the award committee, however, Harrelson excelled by working hard to identify preferred learning styles and differentiating her instruction accordingly.

Her partnership teacher stated that Harrelson was "confident and competent" and "definitely a teacher!"



Clockwise from top, left: Vann Pennell, Senator A.B. Swindell IV, Marvin Pittman, Phyllis Meole, James W. Pierce Jr., Rosemarie Vardell, Felicia Clair, and Katura Jackson.
(Photo courtesy of Frank Bua)

Razor Walker Awards

Recognizing North Carolina Leaders for Service to Children and Youth

Since 1993, the Watson School of Education has presented Razor Walker Awards to dedicated leaders throughout North Carolina who, through their vision, tenacity and courage, have stepped forward to meet the needs and improve the lives of young people, sometimes at great personal and professional sacrifice. The 2010 awards were presented to the following honorees:



Sen. A.B. Swindell IV

Public Service/Policy

Since 2000, A.B. Swindell has served the residents of Nash and Wilson counties in the North Carolina State Senate. He began his career as a vocational education teacher and recognizes that creating and maintaining a competitive public education system is crucial to North Carolina emerging from the economic downturn with a workforce capable of addressing the challenges of the future. He was appointed vice chairman of the Joining Our Businesses and Schools (JOBS) Commission, designed to provide high school students with more marketable job skills. Swindell has “walked the razor’s edge” in his many initiatives to support education and implement public policies to improve the quality of life for all citizens in North Carolina.



Vann Pennell

Educational Administration

Principal of South Brunswick High School, Vann Pennell urges teachers to develop their professional skills. As a result, South Brunswick has more National Board certified teachers than any other school in the system. With his leadership, teachers created professional learning communities to share best practices and increase collaboration. Pennell has high expectations for students, too, and test scores have risen steadily during his tenure. His improvements to the academic and physical landscape have built a sense of pride in the school. He introduced 21st century technology into classrooms, beautified the campus, refurbished the tennis courts and football fields, and upgraded the aquaculture fish farm. His efforts earned him 2008 Brunswick County Principal of the Year and 2009 North Carolina Wachovia Principal of the Year honors.



Marvin Pittman

Educational Administration

Marvin Pittman was one of the architects of the Improving Minority and At-risk Student Achievement: Blueprint for Excellence Conference. This nationally acclaimed annual conference has grown to include more than 3,500 participants, and represents only one of Pittman’s many initiatives to ensure educational achievement for all students. He has been a leader at all levels of education, serving as teacher, principal, director of instruction and executive director of curriculum. Now an education consultant, Pittman retired from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in 2010. His recent roles included serving as senior assistant to the state superintendent of public instruction and community liaison for student achievement with the North Carolina State Board of Education.



Early Childhood Leadership and Policy Network

Policy

The Early Childhood Leadership and Policy Network was founded in 2007 to facilitate diverse leadership and include the voices of everyone in the field of early childhood education. Fifty-seven participants, including teachers, family and childcare providers and Smart Start directors, were chosen from more than 100 applicants to form teams across the state to identify and complete a project related to issues of diversity. They focused on children’s classroom experiences, community leadership development and policies that create inequities for children. While sharing research and best practices, they work directly with early childhood programs to model culturally responsive teaching. The Early Childhood Leadership and Policy Network embodies the tenets of the Razor Walker Award for its initiatives to ensure culturally diverse instructional programming for young children.



James W. “Jimmy” Pierce Jr.

Public Service

Jimmy Pierce is the founder of Kids Making It, a program that teaches job skills and links students and families with a social worker for individual and vocational counseling. Using his love of woodworking to reach at-risk youth, Pierce left his successful law practice in 1996 to develop KMI into a full-time program. The first group of children built go-carts, scooters, skateboards and doghouses. Others watched through the windows and asked Pierce if they could build something, too. What began as a volunteer effort with a collection of hand tools in a temporary space has become a full-fledged shop with power tools, laser engraver and router system. Finished products are sold in historic downtown Wilmington. Pierce walks “the razor’s edge” to assist young people with job and life skills, despite the personal and financial costs.



The Ability Garden of New Hanover County Arboretum

Public Service

Since its establishment in 1999, the Ability Garden has served more than 2,000 people using the nature-based activities of horticultural therapy to promote learning and stimulate a deeper awareness of a person’s relationship with the larger world. Raised beds, adaptive equipment and hands-on activities make it accessible for all participants, including those with mental and physical disabilities. The garden’s free services are offered to special education classes, as well as individuals from nursing and rehabilitation facilities. Curriculum includes indoor and outdoor activities to improve focus and concentration, sensory stimulation, self-esteem and social interaction skills. The Ability Garden provides a unique service to the children and youth of North Carolina and exemplifies the purpose of the Razor Walker Award.

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of numerous bright red flowers, likely Japanese quince, with green leaves interspersed among them. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, creating a dense, textured pattern of red and green.

A Note from the Alumni President

Our established programs such as Distinguished Alumnus and scholarships continue to be a source of pride for our group. In spring 2009, Suzan Perry, language arts and math teacher at Myrtle Grove Middle School, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award during commencement exercises.

In October at the historic Wise Alumni House we welcomed Gordon Massengill to speak about the Lyceum Academy, an innovative program at New Hanover High School.

During this spring's commencement exercises, Kate Boyce Tayloe, academically and gifted teacher in New Hanover County, was presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2010.

Then at our meeting on April 29, we awarded our annual Watson School of Education Scholarship to Kama Lee Varney, a most deserving recipient.

Continuing our focus on current educational issues, Robert Smith of WSE gave a brief introduction on high school reform. Our guest speaker Jerry Oates, principal of the Mary S. Mosley Performance Learning Center, spoke about his work leading a non-traditional high school.

Karen Wetherill, interim dean of WSE, outlined new and exciting plans for a program for retired educators who live in the area. The group will include educators from public and private schools and universities across the nation and will provide meaningful connections between the retired educators' experiences and current students, as well as younger educators. More information will be available soon.

This coming year we will continue our efforts to keep our members knowledgeable of current trends and issues as we support the Watson School of Education and celebrate connections.

Julia H. Davis

Julia H. Davis '78, '85M
2010-11 President
WSE Alumni Chapter

Alumni Chapter Council 2010-2011

Julia H. Davis '78, '85M President

Virginia Teachey
Vice President

Leslie Pridgen '98
Teacher Appreciation Chair

Kimberly Stokes '91
Secretary

Anne Grose '90
Nominations Chair

Diane Evers '81
Scholarship Chair

Janis Norris '81
Membership Chair

Steering Committee

Sheri Anderson '98
Carolyn Brumit '68
Julia H. Davis '78
Diane Evers '81
Anne Grose '90
Jeanne Harmon '01
Vicki Hayes '88

Joyce Huguelet '91
Janis Norris '81
Leslie Pridgen '98
Kari Lee Siko '01
Kimberly Stokes '91
Virginia Teachey

Calling All Seahawks

UNCW continues to emerge as an educational leader in North Carolina. However, to soar even higher, your alma mater needs your support. Currently, UNCW's alumni participation rate (the number of alumni who make an annual gift) is below that of many other universities in the UNC system.

Gifts from alumni have enhanced the UNCW experience for generations of Seahawk students pursuing a degree in education by providing critical funding for hands-on learning materials, children's literature collections and personnel support for the Education Lab, main campus and extension sites. In addition, annual gifts designated to the Watson School of Education enable the university to increase the number of night and online courses, offerings at community colleges and alternative licensure programs to help meet North Carolina's demand for high quality teachers.

Annual gifts to the Watson School of Education are an investment in our students as well as the future of P-12 education in the region and state we proudly serve.

Please visit www.uncw.edu/giveonline to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Watson School of Education. Your annual support is critical to UNCW's success now and in the years to come.

1960s

Mary Gaddy '69 retired from teaching after 41 years at Sunset Park Elementary School.

Ashley Nicole Kennedy '07 was named 2010 Teacher of the Year at Fayetteville Street Elementary School in Dunn.

Kira Malatchi '10 is teaching at the American Creativity Academy in Kuwait.

1980s

Marsha Sidbury Spiller '81, a teacher at Dixon Middle School in Onslow County, was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for her dedication and excellence in education.

Lynn Fulton '84, '87M, principal at Winter Park Elementary School, was named New Hanover County's 2010 Principal of the Year.

Weddings

Angela Bragaw '94 and Jonathon Hamer were married Sept. 27, 2008. Angela is the assistant principal at L.C. Bird High School in the Chesterfield County (Va.) Public School System.

Kristin M. Garner '02 and Scott Callison were married June 14, 2009. Kristin is a first grade teacher in Davie County.

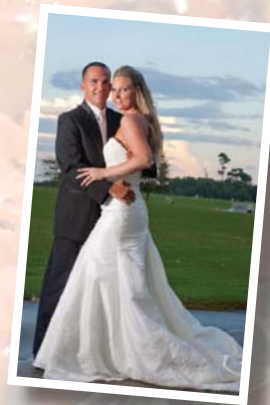
Rachel Austin '04 and James J. Dargan were married April 19, 2009.

Kristen Mueller '04 and John Orr were married June 13, 2009.

Margaret F. Lineberger '05M and Jason W. Rollison were married April 25, 2009.

Heather L. Smith '05 and Roger L. Cooke II '04 were married Oct. 10, 2009. Heather is a clinical research associate at PPD Inc. and is pursuing a Master of in Business Administration degree. Roger is an instructor at U.S. Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, and is pursuing a master's degree in international relations. (photo)

Christopher J. Dow '07 and Jamie Holmes were married Dec. 12, 2009. He teaches fourth grade at Richland School District Two in Columbia, S.C.



1990s

Kim Horton '92, who teaches at Alderman Elementary School, was named New Hanover County Teacher of the Year.

Christine Plasky Andre '93 is the 2010 Wachovia Principal of the Year for Onslow County.

Jamie Barnhill '94 was featured in the Sept. 2009 issue of *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine for his innovative methods of outdoor education to his kindergarten class at Forest View Elementary School.

Jackson L. Norvell '98, '08M is the assistant principal at Cape Fear Middle School in Pender County. His wife, Christina Peck Norvell '99 is the owner of the Sterling House in Wilmington.

Elizabeth Harkcom '99 received her National Board Certification for teaching in November 2008.

Births

Jennifer Davis Hall '99 and her husband Deric announce the birth of a son, Caleb Bryce, on May 8, 2009. Jennifer is a kindergarten teacher in Davidson County. (photo)

Deaths

Paula Marshburn Holland '78 on April 25, 2010.

Rory Elizabeth Michaelson '09 on Jan. 2, 2010.



2000s

Jennifer Brynn Hulbert '01 graduated in 2009 from UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy.

Daniel Richardson '03 was named the Brunswick County's Teacher of the Year in April 2009.

Belinda F. Simmons '03 is a first grade teacher at Town Creek Elementary School in Brunswick County.

Patrick H. Gunn '00, '05M is the vice president and senior technical designer for Citigroup in Atlanta.

Kevina Kay Casaletto '06 was accepted into the Peace Corps and departed for Belize Aug. 21 for pre-service training as a teacher volunteer.

Share your news

We want to hear about your professional and personal achievements. The Watson School of Education and the UNCW Alumni Association would like to share your news in future editions of Connections and UNCW Magazine. Write, call, send an e-mail or fax or visit us online to let us know where you are and what you are doing.

UNCW Advancement Services
601 S. College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403-5905
E-mail: alumni@uncw.edu
Online: www.uncw.edu/alumni-update/
Phone: 910.962.3593 or 866.468.6291
Fax: 910.962.7674

Giving Counts

by **Andrea Weaver**

For years, Karen Kessinger – military wife, mother and foster parent – nurtured a dream to complete her college education.

Someday, she thought, when my children are older... when I have more time... when our family has more money... when I am ready, I'm going back to school.

Kessinger, shown at right with her family, is a former teaching assistant who earned an associate's degree from a Florida community college nearly 20 years ago. However, she always wanted more. She wanted to be a teacher, like her father, sister and brother.

"I had a lot of great teachers who inspired me when I was in school," she said, "I also have met many people who were my father's students. They almost always say they learned more from my dad than they ever imagined. I want to be that teacher."

Kessinger's day came during her husband's deployment to Iraq. He is a U.S. Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C. At the time, Kessinger was helping the couple's oldest daughter Jennifer, now a senior at UNC Chapel Hill, get ready for college.

"I realized that if I didn't go ahead and do it, my daughter was going to finish before me," Kessinger said with a laugh.



Your Gifts at Work



She heard about the UNCW Onslow County Extension Program, operated in partnership with Coastal Carolina Community College and Camp Lejeune. When her husband came back from Iraq, she said, “I decided it was time to do something for myself. Through the extension program, UNCW had exactly what I needed.”

The university offers six bachelor degree options in Onslow County. Kessinger enrolled in the elementary education program provided by the Watson School of Education. Classes are conducted online and onsite at Coastal Carolina or the military base’s education center.

“I found out that the class schedules are very flexible,” she said. “Once I started going, I realized most of the students were nontraditional like myself. Our professors were more than willing to work with us. They knew that most of us had families and lives outside of school. They were willing to accommodate our schedules.”

At first, Kessinger worried about the demands of returning to college. “I was out of school for a long time,” she said. “I wasn’t sure I could do it again. I wasn’t sure I could get back into that schedule.”

Balancing her education with her family’s needs was a challenge, too. Kessinger and her husband have three biological daughters and an adopted daughter. They have been foster parents since 2001; when she enrolled at UNCW, they were nurturing two foster children. They now have a single foster child.

“For moms like me, going back to school isn’t just about learning or just about figuring out how you are going to pay for tuition and books,” she said. “When you have children, there are other things to consider, other expenses involved, like daycare.”

Fortunately, Kessinger received two scholarships, including a prestigious academic award supported by the Watson School of Education Alumni Chapter.

“Knowing that money was there so that I could finish my education was so important,” she said. “I want to thank my donors for giving me the opportunity to finish my teaching degree. Their generosity meant a lot to me, and it will mean a lot to the students I am able to help as a teacher.”

Kessinger graduated from UNCW in December 2009. Her daughter Jennifer will graduate from UNC Chapel Hill in May 2011.

“It was such an accomplishment to finally graduate, to finally finish my degree,” Kessinger said. “For a long time, I didn’t think I would get to finish it.”

Now she looks forward to getting a class of her own. She’s ready to put her new skills to the test, especially the concepts and strategies she practiced during her teaching internship with a fourth grade class at an elementary school on the marine base.

“I had a great experience in that class. I loved it!” Kessinger said, specifically mentioning the Watson School’s focus on preparing teachers to educate 21st century learners. The program emphasizes collaborative teaching styles, frequent reflection and thorough assessment as well as integrated use of technology.

“As a teacher, it really showed us how to take what we were teaching the kids and find out how much of an impact it actually had on them,” Kessinger said. “The technology classes were amazing. Kids are motivated by technology. I have all of these wonderful, new ideas, and I’m ready to try them.”



Scholarship Connects Rory Elizabeth Michaelson's Commitment to Teaching to a New Generation of Educators

by Andrea Weaver

Rory Elizabeth Michaelson '09 approached student teaching the same way she approached life – with a big smile, kind heart and genuine commitment to helping others.

“Rory had a passion for teaching, and everything else she did in life,” said her mother, Susan Finley. “She was a warm and loving person with a wonderful sense of humor. She reached out every day to help others, and in doing so, Rory brought great joy to the lives of all who knew her.”

Michaelson died Jan. 2, 2010, in a fire at the Wilmington apartment complex where she lived, but her generous spirit and passion for teaching will live on thanks to a scholarship Wilmington residents Susan and Bill Finley have created at UNCW.

The Rory Elizabeth Michaelson Scholarship in Education is a merit award for students who plan to major in special education. Michaelson graduated from UNCW in December 2009 with a degree in special education and was slated to begin teaching at J.T. Barber Elementary School in New Bern, N.C., on Feb. 1.

“We asked ourselves, ‘What can we possibly do to honor Rory, to celebrate her legacy and carry her dreams forward?’ A scholarship seemed like the right thing,” Finley said, noting the outpouring of care and concern that she, Bill and Rory’s brother Tommy received from the Wilmington community following the tragedy. This included a large number of contacts from people they did not know, but who were touched by Rory’s story and her plans to become a teacher of students with special needs.

Michaelson had an obvious gift for teaching, according to her internship supervisor Carol Chase Thomas, a professor in the UNCW Watson School of Education. She was a student teacher at Wilmington’s Gregory Elementary School in fall 2009.

“Unlike some student teachers who only want their supervisors to observe strategies they have already mastered, Rory invited me to watch lessons she was trying for the first time so that we could brainstorm ways to improve her instruction,” Thomas said. “After one of the observations, she commented: ‘Dr. Thomas, I feel myself really becoming a teacher, and I love it!’”

During the next five years, Finley hopes to endow the Rory Elizabeth Michaelson Scholarship, making it a permanent tribute to her daughter and a perpetual source of support for future UNCW students who dream of becoming teachers. To date, \$13,000 has been donated toward the scholarship; it will be fully endowed when contributions reach \$25,000.

Scholarships like this one are absolutely critical in the current economic climate, according to Karen Wetherill, interim dean of the Watson School. “We have students – bright, capable students who want to teach the next generation – dropping out of college because they and their families simply cannot afford the costs.”

“We are doing everything we can to help students stay in school, graduate and find rewarding jobs in education,” said Wetherill, “but we need more scholarships to make that happen.”

Individuals wishing to contribute to the scholarship may send checks designated for the Rory Elizabeth Michaelson Scholarship to:

UNCW Advancement Services
601 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403-5905

Online credit card donations: visit www.uncw.edu/giveonline. Under gift designation, select “other” and then enter “Rory Elizabeth Michaelson Scholarship” in the information box.

For more information, contact advancement services at 910.962.3593.



Wendy Murphy '93 receives the official gavel from outgoing chair Terry Coffey as Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo applauds. UNCW/Jamie Moncrief

WSE Alumna Elected as Chair of UNCW Board of Trustees

Wendy Murphy '93 was appointed to the University of North Carolina Wilmington Board of Trustees by the UNC Board of Governors to a term ending in 2011, when she will be eligible for appointment to a second term. In August, Murphy was elected chair of the board.

Murphy received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from UNC Wilmington in 1993 and continues to show her dedication to education through her work on the UNCW Board of Trustees and volunteer work at Harrells Christian Academy and the youth program at the Wallace United Methodist Church. She has served on the Duplin County Education Foundation and is serving on the Duplin County Community Foundation and the UNCW Endowment Board. She previously served as chair of the External Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

The Watson School of Education is proud to recognize Murphy for her latest achievement, as well as her commitment to the schoolchildren of our region and the students of UNCW.



Watson School of Education

developing competent professionals to serve in leadership positions

Your gift will help the Watson School maintain its high level of instructional quality and educational outreach.
Thank you for your support.

Name _____
First Middle Last Maiden

Street address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____ E-mail _____

☐ Alumnus/Alumna ☐ Bachelor's degree ☐ Master's degree ☐ Licensure Class year(s) _____

☐ Faculty/Staff ☐ Parent ☐ UNCW Retiree ☐ Friend

Employer _____ Position _____

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$ _____ If you wish to designate your gift, please do so below:

☐ Watson School of Education (general) WSE7001385

☐ Razor Walker Awards WSE7001984

☐ North Carolina Teachers Legacy Hall WSE1000141

☐ WSE Alumni Scholarship WSE8001949

☐ Check (Please make payable to UNCW) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express (\$10 minimum donation to charge)

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____ Name as it appears on card _____

If you or your spouse work for a matching gift company, you could double or triple your gift. Please obtain a matching gift form from your employer and mail or fax it with your gift to UNCW. Information can be faxed to 910.962.7674, attention Karen Brown.

If you have any questions, please contact the UNCW Office of Advancement Services at 910.962.3593 or toll-free 866.468.6291.

Chancellor's Club \$2,500 and above • Provost's Club \$1,000-\$2,499 • Dean's Club \$500-\$999 • Leadership Club \$100-\$499 • Collegiate Club \$1-\$99



University of North Carolina Wilmington
Watson School of Education

601 South College Road • Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-5991

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wilmington, NC
Permit No. 444

Attention Recipient: If the address label lists someone who no longer lives here, please send the correct name/address to: UNCW Advancement Services, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403-5905 or alumni@uncw.edu

